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The Niagara Advance

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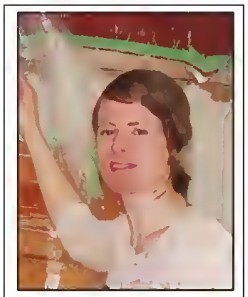
Thursday, April 16, 2015

Councillor suggests fund for OMB 4



Open house shows off student skills 8

Tennis club opens early

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Follow the yellow brick road . . . to Crossroads

Penny Coles Niagara Advance

Rebecca Hope as the Tinan, Lio Christian Roethling, good witch Sami Poulsen, Scarecrow Ben Macdonald and wicked witch Jenna Cowan are rehearsing daily for their roles in Crossroads Public School's production of The Wizard of Oz, with performances Wednesday and Thursday, April 22 and 23. For details see Page 23.

Mumford & Sons expected to attract crowd of 25,000

John Law
Postmedia Network

Monday morning music promoters Live Nation announced one of modern music's biggest bands, Mumford & Sons, will play on the Commons at Butler's Barracks June 15.

News of a big concert in town was released by Parks Canada last month, but the band was kept secret.

It will mark the only Canadian tour stop east of Alberta for the Grammy-winning band, which releases its third album, Wilder Mind, on May 4.

The show is expected to draw 20,000 to 25,000 fans to the Parks Canada site, which hosted two previous huge concerts in recent years – The Tragically Hip in 2012 and Dallas Green in 2013.

See Page 3

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Councillors OK food, wine and beer in Simcoe Park

Jazz Festival wants to serve alcohol at summer concert

Suzanne Mason
Special to the Advance

The Niagara Jazz Festival has received preliminary approval from the town to hold a concert in Simcoe Park this summer that will include serving alcohol and food.

Town staff had recommended that the non-profit organization be granted a special event permit to hold a concert July 25, provided no alcohol or food were served in the Old Town park.

Two representatives from the Jazz Festival appealed to the corporate services advisory committee Monday for permission to offer refreshments in addition to the free entertainment.

"We're asking to be treated the way that other events are treated without shutting Queen St. down," said event coordinator Maria Mavridis.

She said the festival has $10,000 in confirmed sponsorships to help cover the expenses for the venue and it needs to stay in the black

Mavridis also said that festivals are a great way to boost tourism in the town and she has spoken to various restaurant owners who support serving alcohol and food at the event.

Staff reported that providing alcohol and food at the event may impact local businesses and there are ample options available at restaurants near the park.

A motion by Coun. Jim Collard was approved that a beer garden be set up and wine and food be served as well.

"This could be a major event," he said.

"Here's an opportunity to put some fun into Simcoe Park."

Coun. Betty Disero expressed concern that other groups will be making similar requests to the town if the Niagara Jazz Festival is granted permission for this event.

"We have a policy," she said. "We don't do this."

Disero said she wants to talk to the NOTL Chamber of Commerce and business owners before making a decision.

Chief administrative officer Mike Galloway said it is the staff's job to follow town policies, but council could choose to make the event "a test".

"If we were to test the water, the Jazz Festival is probably one of the safest things to use," said Lord Mayor Pat Darte.

The committee's recommendation goes to council next week for approval.

The Niagara Jazz Festival, which began last year, is a three-day event that takes place at various venues around the region featuring local, national and international musicians.

Last year, the event was held in August and attracted close to 3,000 attendees.

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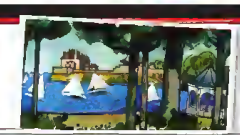

Did you know a home inspection is an important step in the buying process? With today's housing prices, a home inspection is about .09% of the cost of your home's value. It seems silly not to get one when an identified issue could potentially save you thousands of dollars. Even new homes should be inspected by a third-party with your best interest at heart. Another strategy is to have a home inspection report ready when you list your home. The transparency improves buyer confidence. For more go to perryquinn.com

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Concert won't repeat problems of previous shows

From Page 1

Niagara-on-the-Lake Lord Mayor Pat Darte is thrilled with both the band and the timing of the show: Because it's on a Monday night, it won't interfere with Shaw Festival performances (the company is dark on Mondays). And unlike the two previous concerts, this one won't be during the Canada Day weekend, when the town is already packed with tourists.

"We're not having 20,000 people come to town when we're full already," he said. "The meetings I've sat in on with the people involved... they've looked at the first two concerts. The first one had some issues, the second one had them dealt with.

"These promoters have a very good handle on things. We should be good."

Parking and crowd problems which plagued the Hip concert weren't as big an issue for Dallas Green in 2013. Both shows were put on by promoters AEG Live, who opted to skip a show last summer.

Live Nation stepped in this year, and negotiated with the town for weeks to address any problems, said Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce executive director Janice Thomson.

"It's certainly big," she said. "But we do accommodate a lot of visitors all the time, so we're used to doing it. The system supports it and the infrastructure works.

"We never want to make people think 'That's not a day to be in Niagara-on-the-Lake.' It will be a great day to be in Niagara-on-the-Lake."

Tickets for the show will be $69.50 (plus service charges), and go on sale Friday, 10 a.m., at www.ticketmaster.ca or by phoning 1-855-985-5000.

As part of the show, thousands of parking spots on and near the concert area will be made available free of charge.

Mumford & Sons, who just played Saturday Night Live over the weekend, found immediate success with their debut album Sigh No More in 2009, but their second - 2012's Babel - was a monster. It reached #1 in both the U.S. and UK, and won the Grammy Award for Album of the Year.

The band's North American tour begins June 2, with Niagara-on-the-Lake being the first Canadian stop.

Mumford & Sons brings its tour to the Commons in NOTL June 15.
Eddie Chau/Postmedia Network

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Council agrees to war chest to fight OMB appeals

Suzanne Mason
Special to the Advance

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is planning to start a war chest for potential Ontario Municipal Board cases with some of the money from the almost $1 million surplus in the 2014 operating budget

With revisions to the town's Official Plan expected later this year, Councillor Betty Disero suggested Monday that the town put aside $200,000 to defend its planning decisions if there are appeals to the OMB.

"I think it sends a clear message," she told the community and development advisory committee. "We have money to back up... what our positions are."

Disero suggested that the town should consider adding to the fund every year when possible.

Coun. Martin Mazza voted against Disero's motion. He said he would rather direct some of the surplus funds into paying down loans for capital projects or increasing public transit service.

"When we do have to head to the OMB, we (would) not face an immediate budgetary impact," said Coun. Jamie King, who supported the motion.

The total budget surplus amounts to $963,664. Staff reported that it was the result of various factors including increased tax revenues, more planning application fees, a hydro fund dividend and less money than budgeted for staffing.

Staff recommended that $400,000 of the surplus be allocated to a new capital reserve fund for bridge and culvert infrastructure projects.

"Road improvements, future facilities and building stabilization reserves are in a deficit position," staff reported and recommended that part of the surplus be used to clear these small deficits with the rest of the money going into capital reserves.

The committee's recommendation for allocation of the surplus funds goes to council next week for final approval.

Audio, not video for closed meetings

Suzanne Mason
Special to the Advance

Niagara-on-the-Lake town councillors have turned thumbs down on being video recorded during closed session meetings, opting instead for continuing with audio recording.

Staff was asked to look into the price of purchasing and installing video recording equipment and the cost of storing the data. A report to the corporate services advisory committee Monday pegged the costs for the system at over $13,000.

"Use of existing portable audio equipment means no initial costs incurred, and the storage of resulting digital data from these meetings are manageable in size... (and) can be stored in pre-existing archive servers," staff reported.

The committee's recommendation goes to council next Monday for approval.

Pancake breakfast in St. Davids Saturday

The First St. Davids and 31st Niagara Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers will be holding their annual fundraising pancake breakfast Sunday, April 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The breakfast proceeds along with a popcorn fundraiser, will help to support camping and camping equipment for the group, upkeep of their trailer and purchase of badges and other supplies

Adults are $7 and kids under 12 are $4.

The pancake breakfast will be served at the St. Davids Lions Club hall on York Rd. in St. Davids.

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Doug Rempel* homes@dougrempel.ca

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Paula Aitken* 289.407.3925

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opinion page

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our editorial

War fund for OMB a great idea

Coun. Betty Disero suggested Monday that the town put aside $200,000 to defend its planning decisions if there are appeals to the OMB.

It shows what a fresh set of eyes and a different outlook from newly-elected members of council can come up with.

NOTL has faced several OMB hearings in the last two decades, since the Old Town became such a desirable place to live, some of them because residents put their money on the line in applying for an appeal. Council has backed away from pursuing an appeal because of the cost, although individually many councillors have spoken out against specific developments.

This war chest may help them to put their money where their mouth is, rather than backing away from the battle.

Are there other ways to spend a surplus? Yes, of course, but if this fund is built up slowly, over the years, it won't have much of an impact on taxpayers - certainly not as great an impact as having to fight an OMB battle without that back-up.

It was abundantly clear during discussions of a Mary St. proposal for a four-storey apartment building that residents are discouraged and frustrated with a council that won't back up the town's zoning legislation and Official Plan by defending them at an Ontario Municipal Board appeal.

This move to create a funding source for such appeals shows that councillors are taking that message to heart.

It's a great idea. It's too bad it wasn't started decades ago, when development became such a huge issue in NOTL.

Local salon supports clean water for Africa

Bliss Aveda Concept Salon in Virgil is giving away an Aveda gift basket valued at $300, with gift cards from local businesses. Ballots are $3 or three for $10, with the draw on Earth Day, April 22. Also on Earth Day Bliss is offering a $25 blow out day, with all proceeds going to WateAid, to celebrate Earth Day. Every $25 gives one child in Africa clean water for life. Donations can also be made online - find Bliss at earthmonthcanada.com. Bliss is joining Aveda's global movement with WaterAid, which provides clean, safe water for families in Africa.

letters to the editor

Dial–a–ride worth a look

While I'm happy to see that ridership on our town's transit "system" is rising (Niagara Advance, April 9), I think it's important to analyze the cost of providing this service properly

It seems as if it costs about $400,000 per year to run the buses. Total passenger load in the year just past was just over 16,000, and they paid $3 per ride, so the total farebox revenue was about $50,000. In other words, somebody other than the riders was paying seven times as much for each ride as the passengers were.

And who was paying that? The editorial comment that the cost of the service is modest presumably referred to the fact that the town's taxpayers only had to pay $15,000 or so.

But the buses are subsidized to a much greater extent than this by parking meter revenues. If those monies were not being siphoned off to run the buses, they could be spent on some other need within the town.

Did anyone ask the taxpayers if they wanted to devote those funds to carting (mostly) air up and down Niagara Stone Rd.?

It's important to look at this with a clear eye because there are apparently plans to expand the service to other parts of the town. Since the existing service is already using up all of the parking meter revenues, the operating costs of any expansion seem certain to fall directly onto taxpayers.

The sad fact is that the layout of NOTL does not readily lend itself to cost-effective public transit. I think one of the unsuccessful candidates in the recent election suggested that some kind of dial-a-ride option might offer better value. Certainly worth looking into.

Jim Weber

Buses need to be more convenient with better access to health services

We are intrigued by the seemingly positive tone of the recent article (Niagara Advance, April 9) about tbe current town bus service.

We are informed that there is now an "opportunity" for Niagara-on-the-Lake residents to reach St. Catharines General in 1-1/4 hours, by means of a trip involving three buses.

However, this calculation has to assume that the rider's home is in the Old Town or Virgil and on the bus line, not a 15 minute or more walk away from it. It also does not take into account bad weather, which can play havoc with transit connections.

However, the alternative is a $40 taxi to the hospital.

The Town of NOTL is currently experiencing rapid growth, much of which consists of people wbo are downsizing and retiring here.

Few seniors, and especially those no longer able to drive because of age or health problems, will be able to take advantage of this wonderful 'opportunity.'

As many of our health facilities and services are based in St. Catharines, Niagara Falls or even Welland, this is a growing and pressing problem.

Having a bus service here at all is definitely a step forward and hopefully we can build upon what we have at present.

However, we have an urgent need for a much more convenient and user-friendly service focussed on improving access to health services.

Joy Rogers
Shaw's Lane

Dr. Susan Hall
William St.

opinion

Aconites, snowdrops popping up in surprising places

Jean Cochrane
Happy Gardening

It is amazing the difference when the plants get a whiff of warm air - they seem to shout 'whoopee." There are shoots on the climbers and green poking through all over the place - I am trying to convince myself that they are not weeds.

But I have had some surprises - like the Lenten Rose. It has bloomed and has several single blooms on one stem, they are in a pinky/beige colour and I await further developments. I do not see any signs of my pansies so that gives me the excuse to buy some and get more colour around.

My friend Sheila has adapted her glass-topped patio table into a little greenhouse with plastic draped down the sides. The plants sit inside, protected and warm - it works very well.

Now that things are showing, I intend to put some time release fertilizer into everything. I find it less stressful (on me). This way the timing works correctly.

Walking around is truly getting rewarding because the spring flowers are out at last. This morning I only walked round two blocks, first there were the snowdrops (not as prolific as usual, I think the gardener over-cleaned up) then the first lot of aconites, under the trees. Around the corner there was lots of colour, snow drops and crocuses in thick clumps, then more aconites in the grass, and surrounded by clumps of dead leaves a terrific collection of aconites in a neglected treed lot. Nature truly is amazing.

So gardeners the rest period is over, now you get to put all your plans into production - yes I know, it all seemed quite simple on paper.

Happy gardening.

A journey to Guatemala with Wells of Hope

Postmedia Network reporter Grant LaFlech is spending a week in Guatemala with Wells of Hope.

Grant LeFleche
Postmedia Network

Jalapa is a place of extreme poverty, the likes of which most Canadians will never see.

It is a place where a few sheets of aluminum propped up by tree branches counts as a home, and a dirt floor can double as a bed. It is where emaciated cows and horses nibble upon the yellowed and dried remains of plant life, alongside chickens and wild dogs on a desolate mountain slope.

It is, at first glance, a place abandoned by any sense of hope.

But if you look closer, you see something else.

Jalapa is a place of smiles.

Not the polite kind of smile one would toss at a stranger by way of a hello, or the forced grin of a man trying to show his circumstances haven't got the better of him when they have.

These smiles are genuine.

The deep, joyful type of smile that makes anyone who sees it smile in return.

And they are mostly found on the faces of children.

People who live in Jalapa struggle every day to survive. What meager means the people here have is used today to ensure they can try again tomorrow. For most, eking out a hard existence is the best they can ever hope for.

And yet they smile. And laugh. And so often.

I spent a good portion of my first day in Guatemala with a team of volunteers working with Wells of Hope, a charity that is based in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The real work of building homes or helping with water wells or education projects had yet to start. Our first order of business was to learn a little about the people who live in the town of Jalapa and the nearby mountains.

The town, much like Guatemala City a few hours away, appears to suffer from a mild kind of neglect. Every storefront, house or garage looks weather-beaten. Paint is faded and cracked from too much sun and too much rain. No one, it seems, bothers to give anything a facelift. So the whole town looks worn.

In the mountains, life is even harder.

It is not uncommon to see a shoddy mud, brick and wood shack on the side of roads so uneven they are barely worthy of the title, where the only furniture is the ground it was built upon. It's hard to see what anyone would have to smile about here.

Yet, everywhere we went the Wells of Hope team was greeted by enthusiastic cheers. Adults made a point of smiling and waving. Children chased our truck down the dirty paths of their community, waving so hard it appeared their arms might fall off.

During a brief stop, a young girl no older than six or seven climbed up on the side of the vehicle. She, along with a young boy I took to be her brother, didn't say anything. Most of us speak no Spanish, and she clearly speaks no English.

They just wanted to say hello.

The little girl smiled brightly. I took her photograph and showed her the result. She smiled a wide grin with teeth that needed some attention from a dentist, blushed, then burst into laughter. Everyone in the truck laughed, too, as if joy was infectious.

I don't remember the last time I laughed so purely like that.

Ted van der Zalm, the founder of Wells of Hope, said the organization has been in the area for 11 years and after digging more than a dozen wells, has become something of a household name.

But there is more to it than gratitude, he said.

"They know what is important in life," he said. "They know in their hearts that what matters is relationships. It's about love. In Canada, and in North America, we have all kinds of things we think make us happy. But they don't. Because it is not about the next iPod, or how popular you are, or how you look or if you have a six pack.

"It it about your relationships."

Yes, he said, far too many in Jalapa struggle each day. But unlike us with our social media and disposable culture, they aren't distracted by things that don't matter.

That simplicity, he said, is the source of those smiles.

And that is something worthy of serious consideration.

Willowbank open house shows off student skills

Cathy McCabe
Special to the Advance

Willowbank opened its doors to the public Saturday to give the community a chance to learn about its School of Restoration Arts.

The private career college has a faculty of more than 60 and offers a diploma in heritage conservation.

"The event today is an opportunity to see what Willowbank is all about," said Sally Nadalin, director of development. "We have about 40 students in a three-year diploma program. They are demonstrating some of the skills that they learn while they are at Willowbank."

The event included demonstrations, guided tours of the historic estate, a barbecue and a bake sale.

It also gave potential students the opportunity to explore Willowbank and their lower campus, the former Laura Secord Public School.

At Willowbank "you get a really good understanding of the craftsmanship because you actually work with your hands, but you also get an academic side that teaches you about cultural landscape and teaches you how to do management plans," said Nadalin.

"There's a whole entrepreneurial spirit that comes alongwiththeplacebecause it is very young itself, even though it is a historical setting. Anyone who comes here has that entrepreneurial spirit as well."

The plaster demonstration was led by Willowbank teacher and master plasterer Harm Schonewille.

"I think a lot of people are interested in looking at all of this [plaster work], but have no idea how it got there. Well, I can still tell them how it got there."

He said he began his craft when he was 15 and he now has more than 60 years of experience.

While he was explaining his craft to visitors, two of his first-year students were working to restore one of Willowbank's walls.

Schonewille had earlier plastered some of the wall on the main floor and students Hallie Church and Laura Wickett were taping off a portion that dates back to 1834.

"Instead of redoing [the wall] to look brand new, we wanted to show all of the layers," said Wickett.

When it's finished, parts of the original wall and the restored wall will be seen side by side.

During their first year, students do a lot of plastering, masonry, carpentry and blacksmithing, Wickett said.

That exposure helps students decide what area they want to focus on, said Church.

Happy to have people come to the open house, Wickett said, "I feel like we're such a small school that even people nearby might not know about us and there are some interesting things for people to see."

School of Restoration Arts students Hallie Church and Laura Wickett work on restoring a wall at Willowbank. A portion will be left in its original state to show a 'before and after' of the wall of the historic estate. Cathy McCabe/Special to the Advance

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NOTICE TO RESIDENTS
COMMUNITY UPDATE WITH TOWN COUNCIL

Lord Mayor Pat Darte and Town Council invite you to join us for the first Community Update session in this term of Council. Discussion topics include education, health care services, transportation, the Official Plan Review, and Communities in Bloom.

Residents are encouraged to share their views on issues of local interest.

Date: Monday, April 27, 2015
Location: Community Centre Auditorium
14 Anderson Lane, Niagara-on-the-Lake

Agenda:
7:00 p.m. Lord Mayor's Welcome
7:15 p.m. Break-Out Sessions with Council Members
8:00 p.m. Councillor Reports on Group Discussions
8:20 p.m. Question & Answer Session

For further information, please contact Dawn McInnis, Corporate Services Department, at 905-468-3061 x 235 or dmcinnis@notl.org.

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Shaw announces next executive director

John Law
Postmedia Network

A new era for the Shaw Festival found one of its most important pieces last week.

Tim Jennings, who has several years experience in theatre management in the U.S., will become the company's new executive director as of Oct. 1.

Jennings replaces Elaine Calder, who retires in September after her second stint with the Festival.

"When I first got into theatre, I had hopes of working there in the production department," said the Kingston-born Jennings, who has been managing director of the Children's Theatre Company of Minneapolis since 2011. "(Shaw is) one of the great pillars of excellence in both performance and production in the world. It's a great national treasure."

Jennings worked at the Canadian Opera Company and Toronto's Roseneath Theatre before leaving Canada to become managing director of Seattle Children's Theatre.

In Minneapolis, he was tasked with helping turn around a struggling company, much like Calder did at the Shaw Festival in 2012. Under her watch, the company managed to erase a $2.7 million accumulated deficit.

Jennings said he'll work with Calder's "template," while adapting to what will be massive changes at Shaw. Artistic director Jackie Maxwell leaves after the 2016 season, and the company is looking to replace two aging theatres.

A key challenge, he said, will be luring U.S. theatregoers back to the company.

"It's vital that both the Canadian and U.S. audiences become more aware of Shaw. As the Canadian dollar is a little off of the U.S. dollar, it makes the attractiveness of spending money over the border higher.

"Destination theatre like this is a thing that really relies on an understanding of what the offering is, and why it's unique."

Jennings grew up in Georgetown, ON, and recalls going to the Shaw Festival with his parents during former artistic director Christopher Newton's first season (1980).

"I credit it with a lifelong love of the art and starting my career in theatre."

Though he'll only share one season with her, Jennings is eager to work alongside Maxwell.

"One of the great things about working there is getting a chance to work with people like Jackie, who have a clear vision and have done great things for Shaw."

Jennings will move to Niagara with wife Truly Carmichael and their son Zach.

The Shaw Festival's 2015 season opens May 14.

Tim Jennings will be the next executive director of the Shaw Festival.

Role in the Hayloft with Joe

Niagara Oast House Brewers will be hosting local standup comic Joe Pillitteri in the Hayloft Saturday, April 25. Beer Shed doors open at 6 p.m. Food will be provided by chef Adam Hynam–Smith of El Gastronomo Vagabundo. The show begins at 8 p.m. Proceeds from the event will go to Kidsport Niagara and The Terry Fox Foundation. Tickets are $20 and are available at Oast House on Niagara Stone Rd.

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY FROM THE NIAGARA-ON-LAKE HOSPITAL FOUNDATION BOARD

The **Board of Directors for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Hospital Foundation** would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the residents and family members of our community for their support.

The Foundation's total assets at fiscal year end **March 31, 2015** stood at **$990,168**. This figure represents a combination of donations and investment income. From **April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015** the total donations were **$1 731**. The expenditure for this year was a bladder scanner for **$19 000** for the Family Health Team. Audited financial statements are expected to be available by May 15.

In 2013, a Community Health Services Review Committee was formed to review the current and future needs for our health care in Niagara-on-the-Lake in response to the Ministry of Health's report which included the closure of our hospital. The Hospital Foundation donated **$50 000** to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake to fund a consultant to review and prepare a report to determine viable options to maintain our current health services and expand programs for our residents.

The NOTL Hospital Foundation was incorporated in 1995 to support the NOTL Hospital. As a charitable entity, the Foundation has acquired, receipted, held, invested and disbursed funds as per the needs of the Hospital. The Foundation has contributed regionally by donating $500 000 to purchase two radiation beds which are plated in our name at the Walker Family Cancer Centre in St. Catharines; and donating $60 000 towards the Heart & Stroke Scanner at the Greater Niagara General Hospital.

In March, 2000 the Niagara hospitals were amalgamated under the **Niagara Health System** and since the announcement by the **NHS** to close **NOTL Hospital** as of March 31, 2015 the NOTL Foundation entered into a discussion with the NHS Board of Trustees and an **Agreement between Niagara Health System (NHS) and the Niagara-on-the Lake Hospital Foundation** was finalized. This agreement was strictly to ensure that the Foundation funds, as intended by the donors, would continue to be used for healthcare in the NOTL community. These funds are in joint trust and an authorized individual on behalf of the NOTL Hospital Foundation Board and NHS Senior Executive will mutually agree on the disbursements of these funds for purposes that are consistent with the Objects of the Foundation's Letters Patent and which include health service needs, programs, and equipment.
(A copy of the Agreement is available on request.)

The **Board of Directors for the NOTL Hospital Foundation** has voted to change its name to the **NOTL Healthcare Foundation** and to change its objects to support health care needs and programs that serve the Niagara-on-the-Lake residents. The generosity and wonderful community spirit the NOTL Hospital Foundation has experienced over the years is very much appreciated. As the Foundation moves into its new areas of responsibility, it is hoped that this same generosity and spirit of caring will continue.

The current Board Members: Brenda Jones, President; Mora Richmond, Treasurer; Directors—Linda Sauro, Moyra McEachern, Barbara Waller, and Bill McEachern.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on September 23, 2015. (location tba)

Bravo Niagara looking ahead to spring concerts at Stratus

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Chris Mori is gearing up for ber Spring into Music concerts at Stratus - the second spring event for Bravo Niagara.

Last year's series of spring concerts at the local winery were the first for Mori and her daughter, two musicians who launched Bravo Niagara to bring more quality music to the community they have come to love, and a community they know loves good music.

A lot has happened in the year, and they have several successful concerts under their belt - but Mori is still trying to clear her head of the difficult events of last week and "move on, get the show back on the road," she said.

Mori had decided to expand beyond Niagara-on-the-Lake, and was behind the appearance of Valentina Lisitsa at the Brock Centre for the Performing Arts last Saturday.

Lisitsa is a world-renowned pianist whose reputation has been built on social media. She is a Ukraine-born musician, now living in the U.S. and was to appear in Toronto with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra after her St. Catharines appearance, which was a very successful, intimate "party," with her fans joining her onstage.

"It delighted the audience. We had wonderful emails, and I was on cloud 9 Sunday. But everything came crashing down Monday when we heard about Valentina."

After tweeting pro-Russian comments, the musician was paid by the TSO not to perform, and her two concerts were cancelled.

Although "part of me feels we could have had two sold-out shows" had the concert order been reversed, "I'm actually glad ours was the week before. Our show was wonderful. People drove from Montreal, New York state, and across Ontario to see her - fans who found it on Facebook and were there because they love her."

A concert should be about great music, "and that's all I wanted to do - bring great music to Niagara," said Mori - and having said that, added that she is clearing her head and looking forward to the Stratus series, April 24 and 25.

There will be three exciting performances this series, beginning with soprano Julia Bullock, joining pianist Renate Rohlfing Friday, April 24 in the winery's "press alley," transformed into an intimate, industrial chic concert hall with a nine-foot Steinway taking centre stage, promises Mori.

Mari Kodama will perform with her daughter at the Saturday aftrnoon Bravo Niagara concert.

Bullock, says Mori, is a fast-rising soprano with a stellar career ahead of her.

Rohlfing, a graduate of The Juilliard Scbool, bas quickly established herself as a sought-after and versatile pianist, performing with some of the world's leading artists, said Mori, a retired Juilliard-trained pianist.

Saturday at 11 a.m., local artist and scientist Dr. Ron Clavier will be at the NOTL Public Library talking about the Springtime of the Mind, harmonizing music and science, said Mori.

He will also be displaying three works of art he was commissioned to paint by Bravo Niagara, and whicb will be sold, with 20% of the proceeds going to tbe Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

Mori, a two-time breast cancer survivor, has intended from the early days of Bravo Niagara to fundraise for the foundation, finding ways to do that through her concerts, and is able to do so with this series through the generosity of Clavier, she said.

The festival day continues Saturday with a performance at 2 p.m. by internationally acclaimed pianist Mari Kodama, and ber 15-year-old daughter Karin Kei Nagano, who will play together and also perform solos.

Then, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Stratus winemaker J-L Groux will host an exclusive tasting of spring wines from Stratus, before jazz trumpeter Jumaane Smith takes the stage for his Canadian solo debut.

Best known to audiences around the world as Michael Buble's lead trumpeter for 10 years, Smith recently released his debut record I Only Have Eyes For You, a celebration of the Great American Songbook featuring performances by Michael Buble, Jackie Evancho, and Naturally 7.

Smith will be joined by internationally-acclaimed and JUNO Award winning musicians, pianist Robi Botos, bassist Mike Downes, singer Dominic Mancuso and guitarist Tony Zorzi.

Seating is limited. Tickets are available at www.bravo-niagara.org or in person at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce on 26 Queen St., or call 289-868-9177 for more information.

2015 Season for NOTL Minor Softball is open for registrations.

NOTL Minor Softball

League is open to boys and girls born between 1998 and 2009 (ages 4 to 17). The league offers house league and travel teams.

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Silversmith wins gold at Ontario Brewing awards

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

It's hard to surprise a beer drinker, says Chris Pontsioen.

As co-owner of Slivesmith Brewing Company, he would know - he's heard too many beer drinkers say "beer is beer."

"But they try our Black Lager, and they realize that's not the case. It's a surprise to them. I don't think there's a day goes by that we don't hear 'this isn't what I was expecting,' and you don't get to say that very often with beer."

The judges of the annual Ontario Brewing Awards must have agreed, and found it a pleasant surprise - Silversmith's Black Lager won gold at the gala event in Toronto last week.

The brewery, which opened in 2012 on Niagara Stone Rd. in an ivy-covered restored former church built in the late 1800s, is co-owned by Pontsioen and Matt Swan. John Legassicke is their brew master, working behind the scenes in the production area, an addition to the church that features floor to ceiling glass windows allowing the gleaming new tanks to be viewed from the street.

Black Lager makes up about 75% of Silversmith sales, says Pontsioen. They produce 12,500 litres a month, and supply about 60 bars and restaurants in the region.

"We describe it as 'bold and easy-going,' and that's an unusual combination," says Pontsioen.

"It's a really unique beer, an easy-going dark lager that also has some bold character and flavour. But it's remarkably light, which also surprises people. They think lager is heavy, but they try it and realize that's not the case."

Silversmith was the only Niagara winner of a provincial award, and it felt good to win, says Pontsioen.

The awards are not just for craft brewers, he pointed out - about 400 different beers were judged, in 29 categories representing about 100 different breweries, many of them owned by some of the larger corporations, such as Molson.

Silversmith also won gold for its Black Lager at Niagara College's Project Brew 2015 Craft Beer Festival Saturday.

Their Wheat Beer and Oyster Stout were also award-winners.

Penny Coles Niagara Advance

Matt Swan and Chris Pontsioen, co-owners of Silversmith Brewing Company, celebrate an Ontario Brewing Award win for their Black Lager.

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2202 STONEHAVEN AVE $383,800

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6274 FOREST RIDGE DRIVE $374,800

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225 GAGE STREET $998,000

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32 HARMONY DRIVE $685,000

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Showcasing quality built freehold townhomes consisting of 18 units complementing the historic surrounds of Niagara on the Lake. This luxury townhome is located in a prime location of old town close to shops, theatres, restaurants and walking trails. High end finishes include hardwood on main floor, granite countertops in kitchen and main floor bathroom, tiled and glass main floor bathrooms, interlocked driveways and professional landscaping. **Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft. MLS# 30040009.**

1 EVERGREEN LANE $729,500

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1865 FOUR MILE CREEK ROAD $499,900

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1341 YORK ROAD $381,900

OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 2-4

Attractive, traditional style 1 ½ storey home with dormers. 3 beds, bathroom and landing/reading area upstairs. Covered porch, foyer through to the kitchen leading to rear deck. Huge back yard. Living room, dining room, laundry room, bathroom and a bedroom that is currently used as a home office. Extensive hardwood flooring. Plenty of space to build a new garage or other outbuildings. Directly opposite St Davids school, this would make a wonderful family home with room to grow. Roof renewed 5 years ago. Deck 2 years old, C/Vac. **MLS# N30041554. Kevin Stokes.**

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Based on Association of International Automobile Manufacturers of Canada (AIAMC) data reflecting sales between 1997 and December 2014.

NOTL festivals get provincial funding

Shaw receives largest grant from Celebrate Ontario

Greg Furminger
Postmedia Network

The Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake is one of the largest recipients of a provincial program, and will be given a grant of $247,500.

It's one of the many benefiting applicants from across the region that present events aimed at drawing tourists, creating jobs and growing local economies.

Announced last week, the province is helping 270 festivals and events across Ontario into fiscal 2016 — the highest number in the history of the program.

Since 2007, Celebrate Ontario has committed $137 million to support more than 1,700 events.

There are other NOTL recipients: Peller Estates Party in the Vineyard, from May 16 to Aug. 29, is being given $19,800.

JT Fest 2015, a pop-rock symphony concert in NOTL June 1 to Sept. 6, is receiving $90,000. And Trius Red Presents Rock, running July 11 to Aug. 8, will get $45,000.

In addition to Sbaw, the other major recipient is the Nov. 11 to Jan. 27 Winter Festival of Lights in Niagara Falls, also getting $247,500.

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Kaye Didi Wilson leads the Ageless Grace class at Red Roof Retreat Community Centre at Ina Grafton Gage Village. The exercise and movement class combines special needs clients with members of the public, a first of its kind in Niagara. Julie Jocsak/ Postmedia Network

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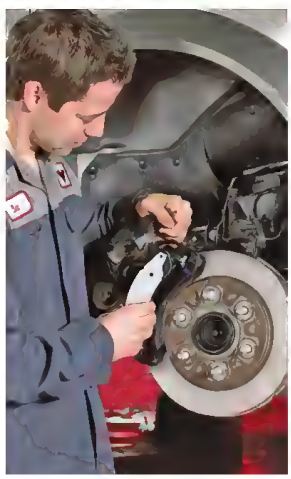

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College campaign gets helping hand from Walkers

Allan Benner
Postmedia Network

Ben Laurence spent about four months in Chile, working with a company from St. Catharines that builds unmanned submarines.

"I was doing 3D imagery underwater with these submarines," he said. "It was really cool stuff."

And recently, the 33-year-old returned to his hometown college after spending eight months on co-op placement with a large aerospace company in Winnipeg, working on the Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II joint strike fighter plane as part of a U.S. military contract.

Even though Laurence is a pilot – earning his wings a few years ago at the Niagara Centre Airport – he didn't get to fly the jet he was working on.

"Yeah right, I wish," he said, laughing when asked if he was permitted to take the F-35 for a flight.

It's an impressive resume for someone still a few weeks away from graduating from the Niagara College's engineering program.

Laurence attributes his accomplishments to the work he did as a senior research associate with Niagara College's Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre – a facility run by engineering department faculty and staffed by students.

"There was no where else in the country that was doing the stuff that we were doing," he said.

And it's only going to get better.

The college recently received a $4.2 million provincial government investment to build a new 15,000-square-foot expansion to the college, to enhance the work done within the research and innovation centre.

And now that the college has received an additional $1.2-million donation from the Walker family and Walker Industries Holdings Ltd. – the largest corporate donation the college has ever received – "just imagine what's possible," Laurence said.

"It's a pretty huge deal for us," he said. "We build things and do projects for local industry. This money is going to allow us to purchase a whole bunch of new advance manufacturing technologies out there.

"This is going to push us right over the limit," he said.

College president Dan Patterson could barely contain his excitement in the hours prior to the annual Niagara College Foundation's Seafood Gala, held at the Fallsview Casino, Saturday evening – an event held to launch the foundation's Achieving Dreams Campaign which will raise $7 million in support of the $55 million Capital Vision project to $55-million expand facilities at the Welland and Niagara-on-the-Lake campuses.

"Having that industry support and endorsement is so important to us, and it's a real testimony to the work that we're doing with the support that the Walkers are providing," Patterson said.

"It's very exciting to know the Walker name will go on our Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Centre. It's part of our efforts to transform our region as increasingly more small and medium-sized enterprises are looking for support for our research and development."

As a result of the government and industry support, Patterson said the college and community has "an opportunity to really make a difference with this very innovative centre."

"Advanced manufacturing is so important to our economy, but in order to do what we want to do, private sector support is really the benchmark for success. And this is really what's so exciting about such a large gift as the Walker gift," he said. "That industry endorsement is really a statement to the community, to our students and to the college that we're on the right track."

In a prepared statement, Walker Industries' shareholder Sheila (Walker) Bonapace said her family and employees "are incredibly proud to invest in Niagara College through its Achieving Dreams Campaign."

"For businesses like ours, that depend on skilled workers that our college educates and trains, it's important that we support this campaign. The future of our region depends on it," she added.

Laurence said the $1.2-million donation will ultimately be spent in the hopes of building a better future for the region.

"We lost a lot of manufacturing jobs obviously due to cheaper labour outside of the country," he said. "But now with advanced automation and we're reverse engineering facilities that we're developing in the lab, a lot of that technology will help to bring new high tech jobs to the region.

"The advance manufacturing sector will really benefit from what we're doing there," he said.

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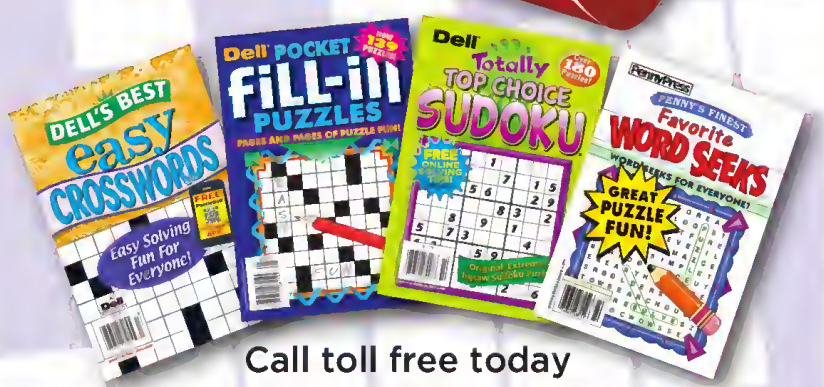

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Scary, funny Wizard of Oz at Crossroads School

Students gearing up with rehearsals in preparation for shows next Wednesday and Thursday

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

The students of Crossroads Public School are bringing one of the most beloved tales of all time to life with their production of The Wizard of Oz.

The iconic story is one of the most-watched movies on TV of all time, and the students have been hard at work rehearsing since November to ensure they do it justice.

It's one of those stories that has a little bit of everything - it's scary, funny and magical, with great music and fascinating, unforgettable characters, as Dorothy and her dog Toto are whisked away in a hurricane to a different world, where they meet the Tim Man, Scarecrow and fearful Lion, a good witch and a wicked one, happy little munchkins and frightening winged monkeys - a cast that allows for great participation from the students, in addition to 160 kids in the choir, says principal Troy Wallace.

In the last two months, rehearsals have geared up with students using their free time during and after school to prepare for the April 22 opening.

Teachers Laury Willms, Ruth Willms, Ruby Krake, Vinciane DeBrouwer and Tina Lisa are working with the students on everything from drama and music direction to dance choreography and costumes, and parent Kim Breakspeare is painting the set backdrops.

There will be matinees beginning at 11:15 a.m. and evening performances at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 22 and Thursday, April 23.

Tickets are free, although donations are welcome. Families of students will be receiving an order form, and members of the community can call the school to reserve tickets at 905-468-7793. Tickets are limited.

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Beer fest a hopping success

Bob Tymczyszyn
Postmedia Network

In a region already brimming with wine and food, the Brewmaster and Brewery Operations program at Niagara College is expanding the scene even further.

It's doing so with its Project Brew 2015, a craft beer festival that celebrates the accomplishments of the graduating class.

"Every semester, the graduating class will be putting on a festival like this," said Doug Steele, who is in the fourth-semester class.

"One of our projects is to brew a beer from start to finish. We design the recipe. We package it. We do everything.

"Today we are showcasing those beers in this festival."

Twenty-two different beers were available to taste, one from each student.

And because they might not be to everyone's taste, five different commercial breweries from the area were also in attendance along with three food trucks.

Steele, a retiree, came to the program more from interest in the craft than from looking to find a new career.

When he started, he and his wife sold their home in Toronto. Now they have decided to stay in Niagara.

Steele said the experience has been fantastic, and he lauded the very cohesive class.

"Typically when brewing, you need two or three people to be working together," he said.

"There's a real passion for beer that we're trying to make sure gets across to everybody."

The beer fest is important because it implements all the theoretical studies into practical application, said Anetta Jewell, professor at Niagara College teaching brewery.

"It's for the student to go through all the steps in order to prepare for a beer festival or event."

Bob Tymczyszyn/Postmedia Network

Despite cool spring weather the Project Brew 2015 craft beer and food festival drew crowds to the NOTL campus of Niagara College Saturday.

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Nurses on picket line 'stressed' about patient care

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

While on the picket lines, Tristen Castro is hearing stories from patients that are making him "stressed and emotional," and wishing more than anything that he could get back to work and look after them.

The registered practical nurse from St. Davids usually sees his patients at a CarePartners clinic in Niagara Falls, but he and 112 other employees of the agency began a legal strike Friday.

CarePartners' registered nurses, registered practical nurses and administrative staff became members of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union Local 294 two years ago, but have yet to sign their first contract.

There are 1,600 people in the Niagara Region who receive treatment from CarePartner nurses. Some clients visit one of four clinics in the region, but many receive nursing care at home.

CarePartners is a private, for-profit agency under contract to the Community Care Access Centre, delivering nursing services such as dialysis, wound treatment and oncology care to patients who, without those services, might otherwise require hospital stays or long-term care.

Clinics are being kept open, staffed by non-unionized nurses who were brought in from other areas, Castro said.

He says CarePartners is paying "scab nurses" mileage and in some cases hotel costs to work in Niagara.

Patients who can't get to the clinics themselves are being transported by taxi, as arranged by CarePartners, he said.

He's talked to two patients who were so distressed by the care they received at the clinic they just visited they were heading to a hospital emergency room, he said. Others complained of being rushed and not receiving the proper care, said Castro.

"I'm really upset about what we're hearing on the picket line. It's absolutely devastating."

He said his union is asking for a contract that would give them what those employed by other agencies, such as VON, receive - nurses who are also contracted by CCAC to provide the same care, with the same training.

They were presented with an offer March 22, but "it was an insult," he said, and there have been no negotiations since.

Both sides have said they are open to negotiations, but Castro said phone calls from the union to CarePartners haven't been returned, and there are no meetings planned.

Under current working conditions, CarePartners nurses are over-worked and stressed-out, paid by the visit, not by the hour, working unpaid overtime and with no paid vacations or sick days, said Castro. They do their administrative work at home on their own time.

VON nurses get paid by the hour, can bill for travel and administration time, he said, and get paid sick days, "which is huge for nurses who work with sick people."

Cindy Forster, MPP for Welland, was urging CarePartners to return to the bargaining table as workers hit the picket line.

Forster, a nurse by trade, said the strike is going to put even more pressure on area hospitals as patients not receiving adequate home care will go to other sites for treatment.

Karen MacNeil, CarePartners' vice-president of operations, said a comprehensive contingency plan is in place to protect the safety and well being of all patients in the event of a strike.

"We are working with our community partners to ensure that every one of our patients receives the quality care they require during this labour disruption," she said in a press release Friday morning.

Patients were being transferred to an alternate health care provider, seen at a clinic or supported through a contingency plan, which involved family or friends assisting them with their care.

The clinics were to be kept open, with arrangements for transportation, the press release said.

Negotiations broke off when OPSEU insisted on compensation equivalent to nurses in hospitals, amounting to a more than 10% compensation increase, which would have resulted in job losses, said MacNeil.

But Castro questions that - he says his union never asked for hospital wages.

"It would be unreasonable for us to ask for hospital nurses' pay," he said. "VON gets the same rate from CCAC, the same funding, and they can afford to pay by the hour, and for sick days, travel time and administrative time.

"That's all we're asking for."

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Anesthesia options when facing surgery

Randy Klaassen
Special to the Advance

At the recent InfoHealth presentation "Anesthesia: What are my options?" a participant described that some years ago she experienced a difficult situation when a doctor gave her a spinal anesthetic, and now she needs another surgery, but fears the same experience.

Dr. David Lagrotteria acknowledged that some situations can be a challenge, but said there have been advances in anesthesia procedures, particularly with spinal anesthesia as a doctor can have the assistance of ultrasound.

He also noted that age can be a factor, and that with a different doctor ber experience could be quite different.

The presentation at the NOTL Library was supervised Lagrotteria and given by second year students Allison Mackenzie and Helen Su, studying at the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine, McMaster University Niagara Campus.

Su outlined the importance of the "pre-op clinic" visit, usually scheduled a week prior to surgery. Patients need to bring along a list of current medications and any questions or concerns they might have, including experiences with any previous surgeries, and negative reactions to anesthetics.

She also described the importance of abstaining from any food or drink prior to surgery as this could cause stomach contents to become lodged in the throat or drawn into the lungs, a situation all of us would rather avoid.

Mackenzie identified the different forms of anesthesia used in surgeries. She said the most common is a "local" used by dentists. It is delivered with a needle to block the nerves around the area of pain.

This is also used at times for post-operative pain control.

Another anesthesia is sedation given intravenously. This form causes a patient to become so relaxed they usually fall asleep. People encounter sedation at times when having their wisdom teeth extracted or when having a colonoscopy.

Mackenzie identified for lengthy surgeries (two hours or more), and for more complicated surgeries, "general" anesthesia is used. This involves the patient being unconscious and having all pain blocked, and ensures a patient will not move during the surgery.

It was emphasized by both Su and Mackenzie that all forms of anesthesia are safe. However, as with all surgeries there are risks and complications that can develop. This is why there is research so medical staff are prepared for complications.

Su described the use of spinal and epidural anesthesia. The "spinal" is an injection of anesthesia into the spine which typically lasts for four hours and blocks the nerves in the lower region of the body.

An "epidural" is an IV for pain control that can be administered when a patient needs relief.

During the question and answer time Dr. Lagrotteria stressed "You are your best advocate, so speak up for what you might need for pain control."

While there are options, your doctor will explain why a particular form will be best for your situation. And finally, follow your pre-operation instructions.

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Royal Canadian Legion
Branch # 124, 410 King Street, NOTL
Hall Rental Available.

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Every Friday in April ~ 4:30 - 7 pm
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
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Mary Snider room at the Meridian Arena in Virgil
Key note Speaker: Dr. Richard Merritt
Writer and Historian talking about "Niagara Camp"
Everyone Welcome

Join Parks Canada & The Friends of Fort George
Saturday, April 18, 2015
7 - 11 pm
'World War One Tavern Night'
with musical guests:
Ian Bell and Tom Leighton.
The evening will also include
Parks Canada costumed interpreters, a cash bar, light fare, period games, door prizes & more!
Tickets: $25.00/person,
available from the Friends of Fort George
905-468-6621 or admin@friendsoffortgeorge.ca

Amazing Grace United Church
Reiki Treatments
at Grace United Church
222 Victoria Street, NOTL
Sunday, April 19, 2015
1:00-3:30 PM
Contact Sharon Corey **289-868-9469**
or email **birmanhouse5@yahoo.ca**
Donations received for the sessions will be used in support of our Church outreach initiatives.

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Game On for KidSport

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Penny Coles Niagara Advance

Perry Hartwick, a volunteer for KidSport Niagara, is ready to get his game face on to raise money for kids whose parents can't afford the high cost of sports. The game night is being held at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall on King St. Friday, April 24 at 7 a.m.

Playing sports can be expensive, and not all parents can afford it for their kids.

KidSport Niagara exists to help families across the region pay for sports registration or equipment when parents can't foot the bill themselves.

Perry Hartwick is a Niagara-on-the-Lake volunteer who works with others to get the word out about KidSport - and he sees it working.

He's had help from comic Joe Pillitteri, who has donated some proceeds from about five fundraising comedy shows he's done, and who has another coming up at Oast Brewery, on April 25, with the money raised being divided between KidSport and the Terry Fox Foundation

"He's been a great supporter," says Hartwick - Pillitteri first learned about the organization when a friend of his son's and a fellow bockey player asked for donations instead of birthday presents to go to KidSports.

Pillitteri, a father of four, contacted KidSport and offered a portion of the proceeds of his next comedy night, which he does only to help local cbarities, taking no money for himself.

Lillain Brooker, another KidSport volunteer, has helped to organize Game On, a fundraising games night April 24. It will be at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall on King St., and will feature board games, with beer, wine pop, water, snacks and a 50/50 draw.

Some of the games Hartwick has collected are vintage, including a Hardy Boys game, and some are more recent - all will be fun, and there will be help on band for those who don't know the rules.

Although they have a collection of games, anyone who wishes to lend one to KidSport for the night, or anyone wbo wants to register for game night, should call Brooker 905-321-5085.

Cost is $10, an it's an adult-only evening, says Hartwick.

In 2010, its first year in the region, KidSport Niagara gave grants to help 24 kids. In 2014, it gave away 151 grants, and a total of $46,000.

KidSport Niagara puts a cap of $250 on grants, to make their funding go further, but that doesn't go far with hockey registration and equipment. Thanks to the generous support of three Niagara Hyundai dealers, they were able to give $500 to kids who needed help with hockey the last two years, says Hartwick, and he hopes to see that continue this year.

Hockey and soccer are the sports kids most commonly seek help with, but there is a "practically limitless" list of sports that can be subsidized, including swimming, cheerleading, sailing, canoeing and golf.

High school sports also qualify for financial support—often there is a cost for equipment or travel.

"Being involved in sports can keep kids off the streets, and take them away from the computer and TV," said Hartwick, and promotes so much more than the sport itself.

"It teaches dedication to a task, improving oneself, working as part of a team, achieving goals and seeing things through to end," says Hartwick.

"It also teaches kids about controlling emotions - you don't always win, but you don't walk away."

To apply for a grant visit kidsportniagara.ca.

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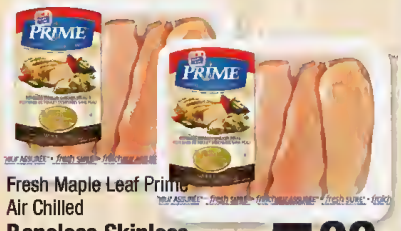

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Grace Church invites community to experience reiki

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

When Rev. Laura Borgerson first arrived at Grace United Church, she said she was hoping to introduce reiki, the practice of hands-on-healing, as an outreach project.

She and her husband, Ted Power, a United Church minister, are both reiki masters.

They, along with parishioner Sharon Corey, have begun offering half-hour reiki treatments one Sunday a month at the church, and are extending an invitation to the community to give it a try.

Corey describes reiki as a gentle non-invasive hands-on treatment - it's spiritual, she says, but not a belief or a religion.

It helps create balance and heals physical, mental, emotional and spiritual issues, she says, and complements other medical therapies.

She and Borgerson demonstrated at the church - the person receiving the treatment relaxes on a massage table, fully dressed. Hands-on treatments]work with "the wisdom of the body" to bring balance and healing to mind, body and spirit. It's relaxing, calming and stress-relieving, Corey says.

It can be effective in chronic pain management, and other medical issues, she says, including providing support for heart disease, stroke and respiratory problems.

And it has no unwanted side effects, she adds. "It helps your body shift into the parasympathetic nervous system, where recovery and healing occur."

Corey, who has practised reiki for more than 15 years, says "it changed my life. It's supported my health in wonderful ways."

It doesn't eliminate the issues people must deal with in life, she says, just provides a cushion to make them easier to deal with.

"I've heard so many positive stories - from one woman who had been dealing with sinus problems all her life, and hasn't for years, since her very first treatment; to cancer patients who find it lessens the side effects of radiation and chemotherapy.

"And although it's hard to measure the effects, studies show it lessens pain and anxiety, and that helps healing."

Reiki treatments are now being offered in the Grace Unite church hall, on the third Sunday of the month, from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Penny Coles Niagara Advance

Sharon Corey gives Rev. Laura Borgerson a reiki treatment at Grace United Church. Treatments are available with a donation to the church one Sunday a month.

For additional information or to book an appointment for this Sunday, April 19, call 289-868-9469, or email birmanhouse5@yahoo.ca.

A suggested donation of $20 is welcome, with proceeds to Grace outreach projects.

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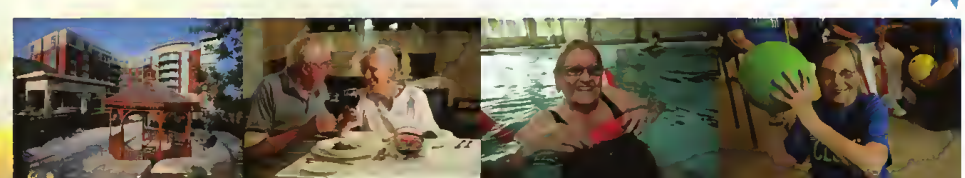

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Niagara-on-the-Lake Worship Directory

ST. DAVIDS-QUEENSTON UNITED CHURCH
1453 York Road, St. Davids
905-262-5242
www.stdavids-queenstonuc.ca
Minister: Rev Paul James
Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM
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Come and celebrate God's love for us all

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April 20 – May 2
Ridvan Festival
905-468-0834 www.ca.bahai.org notlbahais@gmail.com

Amazing Grace United Church
10:30 a.m. Sunday Service
Minister: Rev. Laura Borgerson
Director of Music: Esther Giesbrecht
222 Victoria Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-4044
www.graceunitedchurch.com

B'nai Israel
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jewishstcatharines.com

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1570 Niagara Stone Rd.
www.ccchurch.ca • 905-468-7155
Sunday, April 19th
10 am ~ Worship Gathering & Kids Ministry
(childcare provided mid-way through service)
Message by: Jeff Martens, Pastor
Title: The God of All Grace

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41 Byron Street
Founded 1792
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8:30 am Holy Eucharist
10:30 am Choral Eucharist
Wednesday Service 10:00 am
905-468-3123
Rector: The Rev. Canon Dr. Robert S.G. Wright
www.stmarks1792.com

ORCHARD PARK BIBLE CHURCH
www.orchardparkbiblechurch.org
434 Hunter Rd.
905-468-5731
Sunday, April 19th
9:30 am - Sunday School & Adult Prayer Time
10:45 am - Message by Pastor Reid Cooke
"I May Not Know My Ninaveh
But I Do Know
Mh Tarshish & Gourds"
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life abundant niagara
Pastor Rick Mills
384 Concession 7 Rd
905 688 3958
Sunday, April 19th
current series
"The Beauty of Holiness"
Message: The Wisdom of God
9:30AM coffee 10:30AM worship
info@lifeabundantniagara.com
www.lifeabundantniagara.com

Niagara United Mennonite Church
"Called to be Servants of Christ In Our Community"
Worship Service - 11:00 am
Message by
Guest Speakers
Nathan & Taryn Dirks
Pastors:
Rudy & Sharon Dirks,
Stephen Cox
1775 Niagara Stone Road
905-468-3313
http://www.redbrickchurch.ca

GateWay Community Church
(P.A.O.C.)
1665 Four Mile Creek Road
Sunday, April 19th ~ 10:30 am
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check here for events and podcasts.

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Pastor Greg Alderton
www.villagebiblechurch.ca

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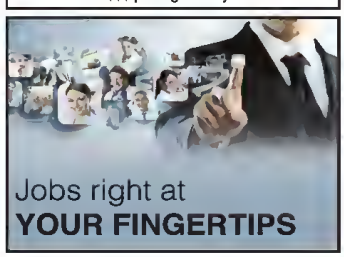

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For more information, please visit **www.NOTLhydro.com** and look for the Careers Page. Submit Resumes by May 1, 2015 via one of the following methods:

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Email: careers@NOTLhydro.com

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Legals | Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

In the ESTATE of Nila Latysh a.k.a. Nila Perederyj, Pensioner, Deceased,

All persons having claims as creditors against the estate of the above mentioned, late of the City of Niagara Falls, in the Region of Niagara, who died at the said City of Niagara Falls, on November 07, 2014, are required to file proof of same with the undersigned on or before May 26, 2015.

After that date the Public Guardian and Trustee will proceed to distribute the estate having regard only to the claims of which s/he then shall have had notice.

Anyone having knowledge of a Will or next-of-kin of the above mentioned is also requested to contact the undersigned.

DATED at Toronto on March 24, 2015.

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File: 818002-012

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Obituaries | Obituaries

BRINSMEAD, Stephen Mark - Passed eway peacefully, surrounded by his loving family in the comfort of his home, after a 5 year journey with cancer on April 10, 2015 at the age of 82 years. Beloved husband and best friend of Carol. Devoted father to Derek Bean (Cassandra) and Melanie Billone (John). Loving grandad of Kayla, Noelle, Semantha, and step-grandad of Logan. Stephen will be deeply missed by his dad Gordon, his brother Michael (Jeanne), his sisters Sharon (Tony) and Shelley (Howard), sister-in-law Robin, brothers-in-law Ralph (Jayne) and Doug (Janet), and his mother-in-law Marjorie Storey. Predeceased by his mother Joyce and his brother Raymond. Stephen is survived by many nieces, nephews and extended family members. On behelf of the family, a special thank you to Dr. Christine Le Lievre and the Bayshore Nurses for their compassion and care. The family received friends on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at the **DENNIS TOLL FUNERAL HOME**, 55 Charing Cross Street, Brantford from 7-9 p.m. A service celebrating Stephen's life took place in the chapel on Wednesday at 11 a.m. If desired, donations can be made to the Brantford General Hospital Cancer Centre or the Stedman Community Hospice. www.dennistoll.ca

In Memoriams | In Memoriams

In Loving Memory

SHANE MATTHEW RUDDY
December 2, 1988 - April 18, 2006

Time unfolds another year
but memories keep you ever near....

We'll never know the reason
you had to go away.

We only know the heartache
of missing you each day.

Loving and remembering you always,
Mom, Sara and Family

Obituaries | Obituaries

BURGESS, Michael Joseph - (November 5, 1942 - April 8, 2015) aged 72, passed away on April 8th surrounded by his wife and children at Niagara Health Services Hospital. Michael was born on November 5, 1942 in Manchester, England to Irene and Jack Burgess and lived primarily in Blackpool where he met the love of his life Freda. He and Freda were married in 1967 and emigrated to Canada. They settled in Oakville, where they lived for over 30 years and made many wonderful friends and memories. Michael worked for 38 years at Honeywell (formerly Garrett Canada and AlliedSignal) where he worked as a Contract Manager and then as a Program Manager displaying a knack for getting things done and dealing with large Aerospace customers such as Boeing, Aerospatiale, and Airbus. During this time he made meny lesting friendships. Micheel was known for his wonderful sense of humour, his fitness pursuits including marathon running and cycling as well as being an accomplished woodworker and avid car lover, especially BMW convertibles. He and Freda retired in NOTL 12 years ago and connected right away with many special people in town through golfing, dancing and other social activities. Michael is survived by his wife Freda, his loving children Alison and Mark; son-in-law Jim Mackenzie; grandchildren Liam and Owen; his sister Jennifer Talbot; brothers and sisters-in-law and his much loved nieces, nephews and cousins. Cremation has taken place. Family and friends whose lives Michael touched are invited to **MORGAN FUNERAL HOME**, 415 Regent St, NOTL from 2-4pm on April 17th to reminisce, support each other, and chat about what a special person Michael was. The family would like to express their sincere thank you to the doctors and nurses in the community who cared for him during his illness. Those who wish may make a donation to Sick Kids hospital. Memories, photos, end condolences cen be shered at www.morganfuneral.com.

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Obituaries | Obituaries

PETERS, John - Passed away peacefully, with family by his side, at the Hamilton General Hospital on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 in his 76th year. Beloved husband of Maxine. Dear father of Tanis Duncan and Jason (Lori) Peters. Proud Bubba of Taylor, Kim, Madison, Sheridan and Ethan. Also survived by his sister Mergeret Campbell, sister-in-law Anne Peters, brothers-in-law Ken Glintz and Don Konkle. Predeceased by his daughter Jacqueline, granddaughter Brooklyn, brother Hank, sisters and brothers-in-law Anne (Emil) Windecker, Sue Konkle, Helen (Ralph) Cronmiller, Katie Glintz and brothers-in-law Charlie Campbell and John Andres. Cremation has taken place. The family will receive friends at **MORGAN FUNERAL HOME**, 415 Regent Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Saturday, April 18th from 10 a.m. until service time in the chapel at 12 p.m. Following the service please join us in celebrating John's life by participating in one of his favourite Saturday afternoon pastimes; a few beers with friends at the Virgil Firehall. For those who wish, memorial donations may be made to the Heart & Stroke Foundation or the Kidney Foundation. Memories, photos end condolences may be shared at:
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Sports

Editor Penny Coles
905–468–3283, ext. 103 penny.coles@sunmedia.ca

Sixteen enthusiastic members of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club dressed warmly Saturday morning and played two hours of chilly tennis, getting a jump on the 2015 season at Memorial Park. Four games of doubles started at 8:30 a.m., and the courts were alive with camaraderie, said member Ross Robinson. Some great shots were made, and some double faults were seen, he said.

Photo submitted by Dominic Ventresca

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Thunderhawks minor field lacrosse opens spring season

The peewee minor field lacrosse team travelled to Toronto Saturday to begin their season, handily winning both their games.

The Thunderhawks defeatd Toronto Beaches 10-1 and Huntsville 7-0, thanks to amazing goaltending by Nathan Fehr and Carter Desante, who posted the shut out.

Goals came from Hunter Ostromecki, Nathan Rawsthorne, Cameron Lowe, Nolan Price, Luke Lazarz, Kris Wilson, Macgregor Armstrong, Christian Blaylock and Keaton Boldt.

Great defence from Nathan Wilson, Jordan Wiens, Fehr and Boldt aided in the win.

On Sunday in Guelph, the bantam Thunderhawks were also undefeated in their opening games. The first was a 13-2 win over Halton Hills. Finding the net were Devin Napoleon with four goals, Jonathan MacIntyre with four, Desmond Pickell with two, and Nolan Fehr and Preston Ebersole with one each. Jared Mines posted some key assists.

The bantams then beat Oakville 15-1, with goals coming from a host of players including Napoleon with three, Hunter with two, Pickell with two, and singles from MacIntyre, Ebersole, Sam VanderZalm, Reid Lowe and Michael Wilson, and strong goaltending from Alex Brillon.

In midget action, the team faced their St. Catharines rivals and lost 12-10 in a good battle for their first outing.

Scoring was dominated by Hunter Lemieux with six goals, while Braeden Rawsthorne added three. Aiden Buis shot in a single as well as posting numerous assists.

The second game saw the midgets face a strong team from London, ending in a 14-7 loss.

Scoring again came from Lemieux and Rawsthorne, as well as Chris Smith, Cam Overstrom, and Chris Weier.

Solid goaltending was provided by Kyle Legros.

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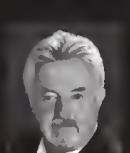

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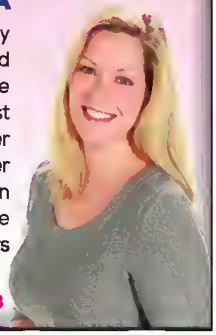
OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 2-4PM

9 BIANCA DRIVE - NOTL $463,900

A MUST SEE! 8 year old Executive 3+2 Bdrm, 3 Bath Bungalow with office/family room. Double car garage, 10 ft ceilings, fabulous open concept, main floor master, hardwood floors, finished basement. Comfortable Bungalow set on a landscaped lot with a very nice backyard and privacy abound.
www.SallyMillerProperties.com
Call/Text Sally Miller 905-988-3019.

THE MCGARR GROUP PROUDLY WELCOMES
NATALIE KESHAVARZNIA

Natalie was born and raised in Niagara and has extensive family roots and connections. After being education in Kingston and travelled throughout Canada, Natalie chose to come back to the area she loved the most. Natalie's hard work ethics and interest in Architecture makes being a Realtor a perfect fit. Her Customer Service experience instilled in her the importance of customer relations and attention to detail. With personal experience in buying, selling, renting, designing and developing properties in the Niagara Region, Natalie is ready to help her clients and customers in all their Real Estate requirements. Give Natalie a call today!



Natalie Keshavarznia, Sales Representative | Direct: 905.380.3233

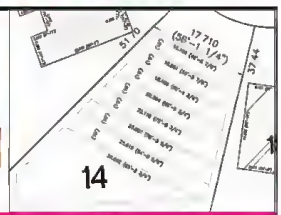
DOUG WIDDICOMBE*

OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 2-4PM

23 COLONEL COHOE ST - NOTL $470,000

Very well maintained semi detached bungalow in THE VILLAGE! Two bedrooms, hardwood throughout, slate floor in south facing sunroom overlooking a private court yard, large living room, dining room, main floor laundry, attached garage. High ceilings in unfinished basement.
Take a tour with Doug on Sunday!
www.ListingsNiagara.com | 289-686-8590

MARK IREK*



14 SORENSEN COURT - NOTL $225,000

EXCEPTIONAL LARGE PIE SHAPED LOT on a secluded Crescent but close to shopping, schools, parks and churches. Close to 13,000 sq ft lot. Prontage shown is at the building envelope coverage up to 5,000 sq ft bungalow. Lot size: 42' x 130' Immediate possession.
Demand RE-MARK-ABLE Service
www.MarkIrek.com | 905-329-8144

RAIANA SCHWENKER*

OPEN HOUSE SAT & SUN 2-4PM

6 ANN MARIE DRIVE - VIRGIL $370,000

JUST LISTED! FIRST OPEN HOUSE! 3 Bedroom 2 bathroom raised bungalow in desirable Virgil neighbourhood. Hardwood floors, lovely bright kitchen which opens to a patio and excellent sized backyard with nice landscaping. Pull bright basement. Attached Garage.
Check it out this weekend!
www.SchwenkerHomes.com | 289-219-1848

CAM SCHWENKER*

POTENTIAL IN-LAW SITUATION

14573 NIAGARA RIVER PKWY $474,000

3+1 bdrm 4 bath picturesque bungalow. Large driveway, 2 car garage, big windows with california shutters & f/ps. Master w. ensuite & walk out to patio. Main floor laundry. Basement has been beautifully finished to include a 2nd kit/wet bar, rec room, stunning bath w. glass enclosed shower w. river rock detail, & large bdrm w. oversized windows.
www.SchwenkerHomes.com | 905-327-6893

JUST LISTED

BREATHTAKING VIEWS $870,000

Unparalled setting with one of the most stunning backyard! This impeccable home is fully finished through all 3 levels offering a lovely blend of warm, comfortable living spaces all focussed on the beautiful views out back. The outdoor terraces and pool area are spectacular both in the depth of construction as well as the attention to detail.
Sally McGarr, Broker of Record | 905-687-9229

A MUST SEE!
2 bedroom bungalow with amazing kitchen and MANY upgrades!

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Erin Bice, Sales Representative | Direct: 905.328.5400 | ebice@cogeco.ca